25th February 1929]

Forests

Development of the lac industry in Javalagiri and Devarabetta.

*1438 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about 80 lb. of lac given by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore, to this Government about a year ago have now developed to about 2,000 lb. in Javalagiri and Devarabetta (Salem district); and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ranger in charge of the propagation of this lac has also been on spike duty?

A.—(a) Seventy-five pounds of lac were obtained from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore, in two batches—35 lb. for the monsoon crop and 40 lb. for the post-monsoon crop. The monsoon crop failed, but the 40 lb. of lac used for the post-monsoon crop in November 1927 have developed to 2,562 lb. by the end of November 1928, that is, in one year. The experiment was conducted at two places, Javalagiri and Devarabetta.

(b) The Ranger was intended solely for "spike" experiments, but was ordered to take up the lac work also as the spike experiments were going on in the same locality.

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"In view of the development of this industry, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to consider the question of separating the lac propagation work from that of spike work instead of entrusting both the works with one man?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I will consider the suggestion."

Forest panchayats in South Kanara.

*1439 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of forest panchayats established in South Kanara with the rules in force and accepted by the panchayats;

(b) how the panchayats are working;

(c) whether it is contemplated to hand over the reserved forest at Hosabettu and the two neighbouring villages to the Revenue department for management by panchayats; and

(d) if so, when the transfer will take place?

A.—(a) According to the Administration Report of the Forest Department for 1927–28 five panchayats are working in South Kanara.

(b) All the panchayats except one in South Mangalore division are reported to be working satisfactorily.

(c) & (d) No. The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 38, Development, dated 7th January 1929, a copy of which was already communicated to him. An extract [a] of the relevant portion of the Government Order is also appended.

[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 107 infra.

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire, in view of the budget estimate that is going to be presented shortly before this House, what the policy of the Government is in regard to Forests ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is under consideration."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the Government are not going to enunciate any policy at all in view of the fact that the budget estimate has already been prepared ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to this particular matter, I may say that Government can come to a conclusion only after receipt of a report from the Chief Conservator of Forests which, I am afraid, will take some months."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" So, am I to take it that, so far as the present budget estimate is concerned, it is based on the old policy only ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes."

Development of the plywood and tea-chest industry.

* 1440 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to my question No. 249 answered on 8th September 1928, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage of development the scheme for the installation of an experimental plywood and tea-chest industry is ;

(b) with what machinery and at what cost is the installation to be made ; and

(c) who the officer in charge is, his antecedents, qualifications and the department to which he belonged ?

A.—(a) The question of purchasing the required machinery is under consideration.

(b) The total ultimate cost of the machinery and buildings required to complete the installation is estimated at Rs. 1,51,660.

(c) The question of appointing a Foreman Superintendent is under consideration.

Forest policy of the Government.

* 1441 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the answer given to my question No. 250 answered on 8th September 1928, stating that the whole forest policy was under the consideration of Government, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what changes have been made or are contemplated in the same with reference to conservation, exploitation, regeneration, sylviculture and staff, superior and subordinate and otherwise ; and

(b) what receipts, and increase or reduction of expenditure it will entail ?

A.—(a) & (b) The question is under the consideration of Government.